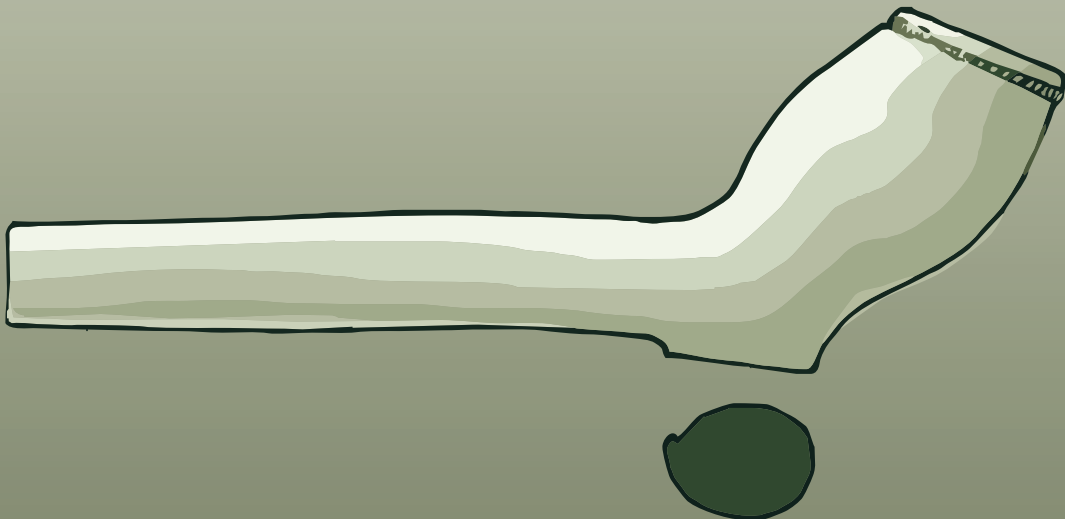


CHAPTER 22

Clay tobacco pipes



by D A Higgins

22 Clay Tobacco Pipes

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This report deals with the clay tobacco pipes recovered by Framework Archaeology during excavations on three sites at Stansted Airport in Essex; the FLB (BAAFL00); the MTCP (BAAMP00) and the LTCP (BAACP01) sites. These three groups of pipes were examined and a detailed catalogue of the material prepared so as to provide a proper record of the pipes recovered as well as accurate dating evidence for the excavations as a whole. The pipe fragments have been individually examined and recorded (Table 22.1) in accordance with the draft clay tobacco pipe recording system, which has been developed at the University of Liverpool (Higgins and Davey 1994).

Bowl forms have been recorded with reference to the London typology established by Atkinson and Oswald (1969) although the dating has been modified according to the actual form and attributes of the individual fragments. In addition to the context number a unique reference letter (A, B, C, etc) has been added to provide a means of identifying individual pieces where there is more than one bowl fragment within a given context. These start from A within each context group. An assessment of the likely date of the stem fragments has also been provided. The stem dates should, however, be used with caution since they are much more general and less reliable than the dates that can be determined from bowl fragments or marked pieces.

A total of 55 fragments of clay tobacco pipe was recovered, comprising 14 bowl fragments, 40 stem fragments and 1 mouthpiece. The assemblages from the three sites are discussed first followed by a general discussion of the pipes as a whole.

FLB site (BAAFL00)

The FLB site produced a single fragment of pipe stem (405048, Fill of post-medieval ditch 405049), which dates from the late 17th or early 18th century (c1660-1720). This stem is not marked or decorated.

MTCP site (BAAMP00)

The MTCP site also produced a single fragment of pipe stem (354062 – upper fill of intervention 354060, medieval ditch 344060), in this instance dating from the mid-18th to mid 19th century (c1750-1850). This stem fragment comes from a long-stemmed pipe and is not marked or decorated.

LTCP site (BAACP01)

Almost all of the excavated fragments (14 bowl, 38 stem and 1 mouthpiece) were recovered from the long-stay car park site. Overall these fragments have been dated to c1610-1780 but this includes some broad dates for the 17th-century style stems and the better evidence provided by the bowl fragments give a more limited range of c1640-1780, with an emphasis on material of late 17th to early 18th century date.

Several of the fragments recovered were quite large and one or two joins were also found, suggesting that these finds had not been much disturbed since their initial deposition. There do not appear to be any marked differences between the date of the fragments or the range of forms represented in each group and it would appear that this material represents a general domestic assemblage that was discarded during this period.

The Pipes

Although quite a number of papers have been written on pipes from Essex, the majority of these relate to places such as Colchester or Maldon towards the east coast of the county and there has not been a recent review of material from the county as a whole. Despite its small size, this group provides a useful indication of the styles of pipes that were current in the east of the county from around 1640-1780.

In broad terms, the pipe forms represented are all either London forms or quite closely derived from styles that were current in the capital. The mid 17th century forms present are heel types (Fig. 22.1, nos 1-2), which are typical of this period with their neat, barrel-shaped bowls. Towards the end of the 17th century rather straighter-sided forms appear (Fig. 22.1, no. 4), followed by a typical range of transitional styles (Fig. 22.1, nos 5-6). Around 1700 a more upright form appears (Fig. 22.1, no. 7), which goes on to become the standard form for much of the 18th century (Fig. 22.1, nos 8-9). The only rather less usual form is a fragmentary spur bowl (Fig. 22.1, no. 10). Spur bowls of this type were much more common in central southern England and, although they occur in small numbers in London, they become increasingly rare amongst groups from the north-east of London and, in particular, from East Anglia.

A transitional heel fragment of c1680-1710 (Fig. 22.1, no. 6) shows one point of interest with regard to the manufacturing techniques employed. This piece has the remains of two stem bores visible in the broken section. During the moulding process a wire with a thickened end to aid its passage through the clay was used. A similar wire, but with a more pointed end, was re-inserted into the partially dry pipe to support the stem during the trimming process. If this wire did not exactly follow the bore created during moulding, then a second hole could be formed. The presence of this second hole confirms that the two wire process has been employed since at least the end of the 17th century.

So far as can be determined from this small group, the Stansted pipes are generally neat and well finished but with a plain surface. Only one of the fragments appears to have been burnished, and this fragment also has part of a stamped mark on the heel (Fig. 22.1, no. 3). This piece most probably dates from c1660-80 and represents a good quality product. The maker cannot be identified since only the very edge of a circular stamp with a plain border and part of a decorative motif below the main device survives. The only other two marked pieces from the site both date from the 18th century and have moulded initials on the sides of the heel. The first is chipped, but appears to have the Christian name initial A and the surname C, G or S (Fig. 22.1, no. 8). No combination of these initials is matched by any currently known maker from the area. The other mark reads WW (Fig. 22.1, no. 9) and this can probably be attributed to William Walker of Ware in Hertfordshire, who is recorded working from

1745-58 (Oswald 1975, 174). This piece also has a relief bowl cross inside the bowl, orientated as an upright '+' (Fig. 22.1, no. 9). None of the fragments is decorated.

Summary

Although a small group, all the closely datable pipe fragments recovered date from c1640-1780 and suggest a specific period during which post-medieval material was being deposited at this site. The group is one of the first to have been studied from the western part of the county and shows that London styles of bowl form and mark were being employed. The pipes are all plain and there is only one burnished fragment, which also had a stamped mark. Two 18th century moulded marks are also present, one of which can be attributed to a local maker at Ware.

Catalogue of illustrated finds (Fig. 22.1)

1. Bowl fragment of c1640-1660 with a stem bore of 7/64" and a fully milled rim. The bowl joins a stem to give 50 mm of stem surviving overall, with an odd manufacturing kink where the stem joins the bowl. Degraded surface so impossible to tell whether it was burnished originally. BAACP01 458024
2. Bowl fragment of c1640-1660. The rim is three-quarters milled but the stem bore unmeasurable. Good bowl form, neatly finished. BAACP01 462015
3. Bowl fragment of c1660-1680 with a stem bore of 7/64". Tiny proportion of surviving heel with part of a circular stamped mark. The mark had a plain border and there is part of a decorative motif at the bottom, both of which are in relief. This pipe has been finished with a good burnish and it is of a better quality than any of the others from the site. BAACP01 480071
4. Bowl fragment of c1660-1690 with a stem bore of 8/64". BAACP01 459029
5. Bowl fragment of c1680-1710 with a stem bore of 6/64". BAACP01 461027 (B)
6. Bowl fragment of c1680-1710 with a stem bore of 5/64". There are the remains of two separate stem bore holes showing that both moulding and trimming wires were being used in the manufacture of this pipe. BAACP01 461027 (A)
7. Bowl fragment of c1690-1740 with a stem bore of 4/64". BAACP01 461027 (C)
8. Bowl fragment of c1700-1770 with a stem bore of 4/64" and relief-moulded maker's initials. The Christian name initial is probably A and the surname C, G or S. None of these combinations is matched by any known local maker. BAACP01 468004 (A)
9. Bowl fragment of c1720-1780 with a relatively thin stem with a stem bore of 4/64". The heel is marked with the large relief-moulded initials WW, probably for William Walker of Ware, Hertfordshire, recorded working 1745-58 (Oswald 1975, 174). BAACP01 447011
10. Bowl fragment of c1700-1760 with a stem bore of 6/64". Tall spur bowl fragment with just one tiny section of rim still surviving. Unusual bowl form for this area. BAACP01 468004 (B)

Table 22.1: Summary of the clay pipes

| Site | Code | Ref | B | S | M | Date | 64 | Bur | X | M4 | Rim | TT | TF | CN | Surname | Other | P | T | M | Dec | Dr | Comments |
|---------|--------|-----|---|---|---|-----------|----|-----|---|----|-----|----|----|----|-----------|-------|----|---|---|-----|----|---|
| BAACP01 | 447011 | | 1 | | | 1720-1780 | 4 | 0 | + | - | - | | | W | W | | HS | R | M | | 9 | Heel fragment with a relatively thin stem and bore. The heel is marked with large initials WW, possibly for William Walker of Ware, Hertfordshire, recorded working 1745-58 (Oswald 1975, 174). |
| BAACP01 | 455008 | | | 1 | | 1660-1770 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 458024 | | 1 | 1 | | 1640-1660 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | B | | | | | | | | | | 1 | Bowl and joining stem to give 50mm of stem surviving. Degraded surface. |
| BAACP01 | 458085 | | | 1 | | 1610-1710 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 459007 | | | | 1 | 1610-1740 | 6 | 0 | | | | C | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 459027 | | | 1 | | 1640-1760 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 459028 | | | 1 | | 1610-1710 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 71mm survives in fresh looking condition. |
| BAACP01 | 459029 | | 1 | | | 1660-1690 | 8 | 0 | 0 | / | B | | | | | | | | | | 4 | Stem sliver without any surviving bore. |
| BAACP01 | 461001 | | | 1 | | 1660-1750 | - | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 461001 | | | 4 | | 1630-1710 | 7 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 461001 | | | 4 | | 1660-1750 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 461027 | A | 1 | | | 1680-1710 | 5 | 0 | 0 | - | - | | | | | | | | | | 6 | Heel fragment only. There are the remains of two separate stem bore holes showing that both moulding and trimming wires were being used. |
| BAACP01 | 461027 | B | 1 | | | 1680-1710 | 6 | 0 | 0 | / | B | | | | | | | | | | 5 | |
| BAACP01 | 461027 | C | 1 | | | 1690-1740 | 4 | 0 | 0 | - | C | | | | | | | | | | 7 | |
| BAACP01 | 461027 | | | 1 | | 1660-1770 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 461027 | | | 2 | | 1610-1720 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 461027 | | | 2 | | 1640-1720 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Two joining fragments, probably freshly broken, making up 148mm overall. |
| BAACP01 | 462015 | | 1 | | | 1640-1660 | - | 0 | 0 | 3 | B | | | | | | | | | | 2 | Good bowl form, neatly finished. |
| BAACP01 | 468004 | A | 1 | | | 1700-1770 | 4 | 0 | 0 | - | - | | | A? | C, G or S | | | | | | 8 | Damaged heel fragment with moulded initials. The Christian name initial is probably A and the surname C, G or S. None of these combinations is matched by any known local maker. |
| BAACP01 | 468004 | B | 1 | | | 1700-1760 | 6 | 0 | 0 | - | C? | | | | | | | | | | 10 | Tall spur bowl fragment with just one tiny section of rim still surviving. Unusual form for this area. |
| BAACP01 | 468004 | | | 1 | | 1640-1710 | 7 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 468004 | | | 1 | | 1680-1770 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--------|---|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| BAACP01 | 468004 | | 3 | 1680-1770 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 468004 | | 4 | 1680-1780 | 4 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 472004 | 1 | | 1700-1770 | - | - | - | - | - | | | | | | | | | Plain C18th bowl fragment with degraded surface. |
| BAACP01 | 472004 | | 1 | 1640-1710 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 472004 | | 2 | 1640-1710 | 7 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | Two joining fragments (79mm overall), freshly broken. |
| BAACP01 | 472004 | | 1 | 1660-1750 | 6 | - | | | | | | | | | | | | Degraded surface. |
| BAACP01 | 480068 | 1 | | 1700-1770 | 5 | 0 | 0 | - | - | | | | | | | | | Plain heel fragment from a London Type 25 bowl (Atkinson & Oswald, 1969). |
| BAACP01 | 480071 | 1 | | 1660-1680 | 7 | G | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | H | R | S | | 3 Tiny proportion of surviving heel with part of a circular stamped mark. The mark had a plain border and there is part of a decorative motif at the bottom. Nicely burnished stem suggesting a good quality product. |
| BAACP01 | 480071 | | 1 | 1610-1710 | 7 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 480072 | | 1 | 1620-1720 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | 55mm surviving. |
| BAACP01 | 480083 | 1 | | 1700-1760 | 6 | - | - | - | - | | | | | | | | | Stem just opening into a plain C18th bowl. |
| BAACP01 | 480083 | | 1 | 1650-1740 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAACP01 | 480083 | | 1 | 1680-1780 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | 62mm surviving. |
| BAACP01 | 480083 | | 1 | 1610-1740 | 6 | ? | | | | | | | | | | | | Rather degraded surface, but possibly burnished originally. |
| BAACP01 | 480112 | 1 | | 1680-1710 | 6 | 0 | 0 | - | - | | | | | | | | | Plain heel fragment (only) from a London Type 22 form (Atkinson & Oswald, 1969). |
| BAACP01 | 547017 | | 1 | 1660-1720 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | 80mm survives in fresh looking condition. |
| BAAFLO0 | 405048 | | 1 | 1660-1720 | 6 | - | | | | | | | | | | | | Thick stem of late C17th to early C18th type - surface abraded. |
| BAAMP00 | 354062 | | 1 | 1750-1850 | 4 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | Fragment from a long-stemmed pipe. |

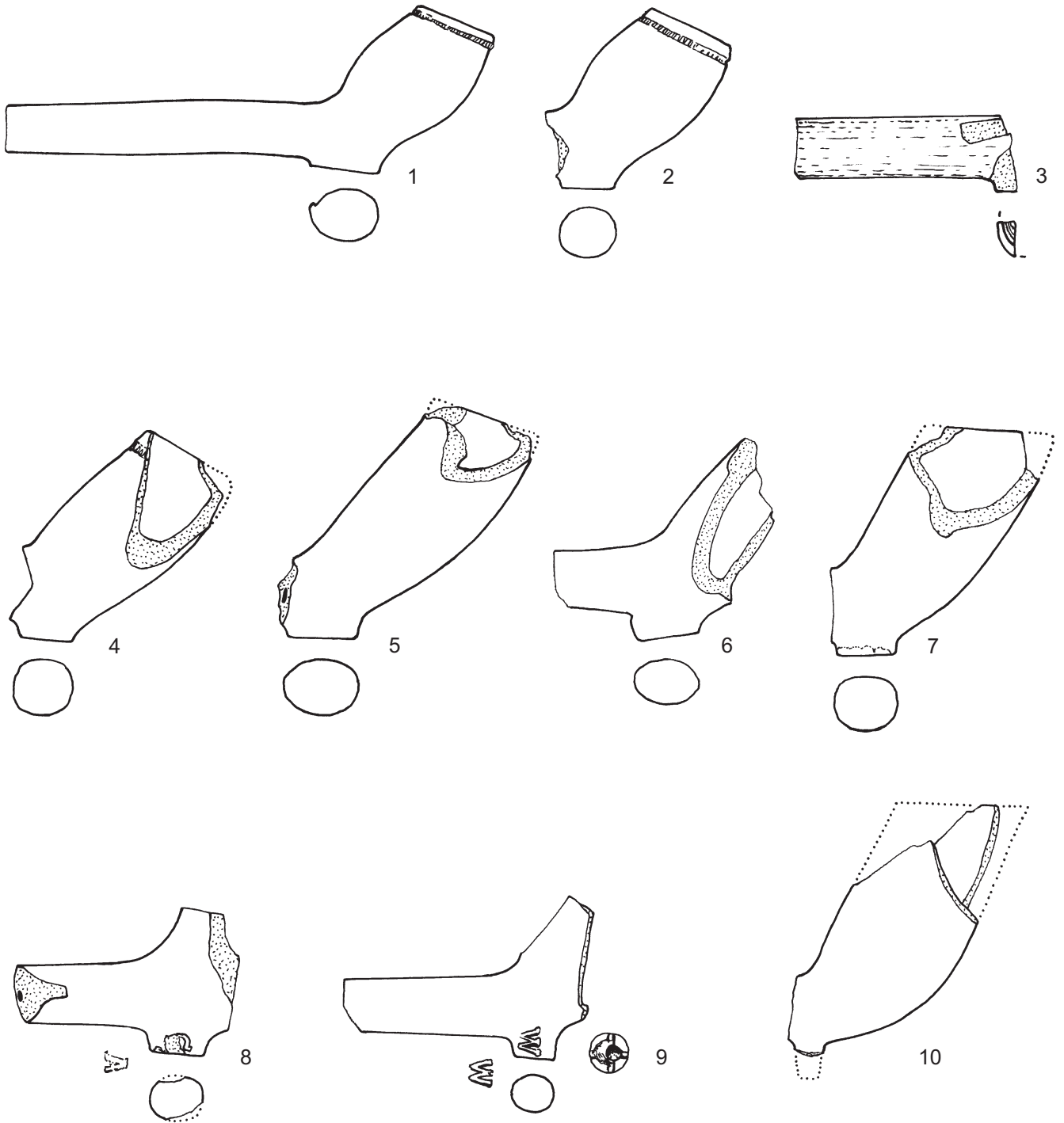


Figure 22.1: Selected clay tobacco pipes (details in the catalogue)



*Framework
Archaeology*

London
BAA Stansted 